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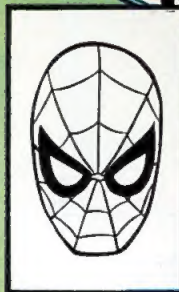


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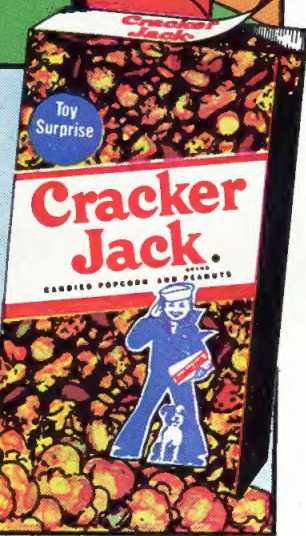
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Stan Lee
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Contract

I hereby agree to risk life and limb in the pursuit and nullification of whosoever jeopardizes the life and limb of others. In preparation for this fundamental obligation I agree to pursue a complete and selfless (though self-immersed) dedication to the total mastery of my chosen moral and martial art, loosely defined for the purpose of this contract as kung fu.

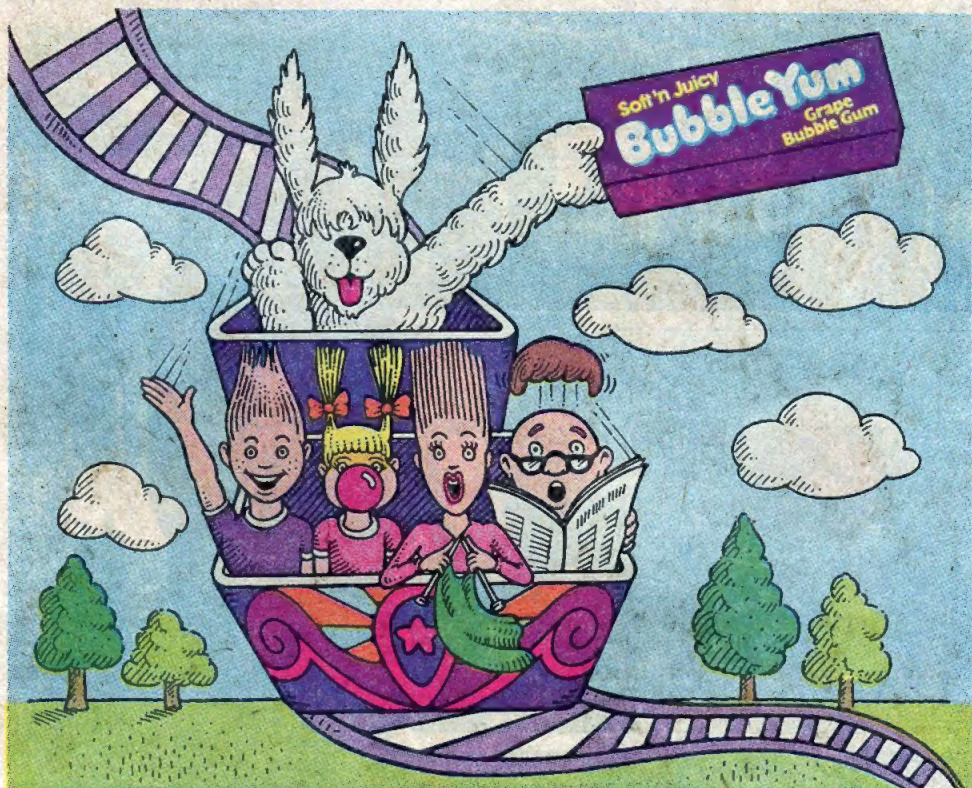
MASTER OF KUNG FU Vol. 1, No. 115, August, 1982. (U.S.P.S. 427-030) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galtion, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1982 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 60¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate \$7.20 for 12 issues. Canada, \$8.20. Foreign, \$9.20. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SHANG-CHI (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. Postmaster: Send address changes to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

Said discipline shall be stringently maintained regardless of concomitant sacrifice in all other phases and aspects of my personal life. I further agree to endure any other sacrifice, suffer any pain, incur any loss (personal, physical, emotional, or otherwise), forfeit all escape clauses, abrogate any selfish considerations, tolerate any indignity, sublimate all contrary tendencies, meet any challenge, and advance every effort as shall be deemed necessary to the successful fulfillment of this contract.

In return I shall receive the sum of \$ honor

Signed Shang Chi





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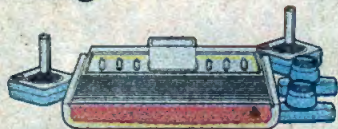
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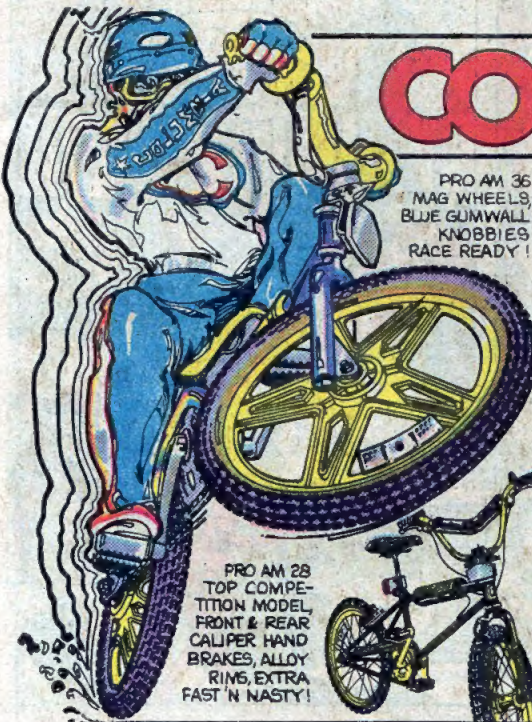
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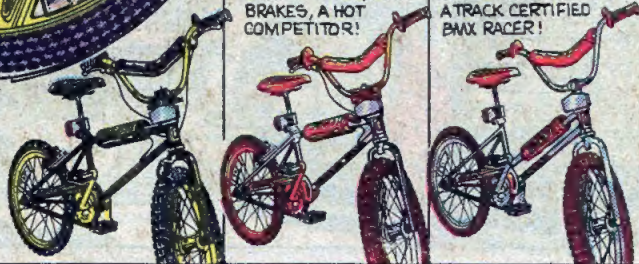
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I THOUGHT I MIGHT FIND YOU HERE, FAH LO SUEE--I LOCATED THE INFORMATION YOU REQUESTED ON OUR AGENT LI CHING-LIN.

NOT YET, MISS GREVILLE--THAT IS LI BELOW US. RIGHT NOW, WATCH.

I HAVE WATCHED HIM--HE'S BRUTAL--ACTUALLY HURTS HIS SPARRING PARTNERS...YET I SUPPOSE IT MAKES FOR A GOOD AGENT IN THE FIELD...



AND ASIDE FROM THE BRUTALITY, HE REMINDS ME OF SHANG-CHI... SO FAST, SO SHARP, SO CONTROLLED.

YES, LI IS MUCH LIKE MY BROTHER, DANGEROUS, AND MORE DEADLY WHEN HE WANTS TO BE.

THAT IS WHY I'M INTERESTED IN HIM, IN-FIGHTING AND BACKSTABBING ARE OFTEN FATAL...

...AND WHITEHALL GOSSIP HAS L'EXTREMELY ENCOURAGED BY MY APPOINTMENT--NOW THAT HE'S SEEN THE REALITY OF A CHINESE IN CHARGE OF M.I.'S, THEY SAY, HE SEE NOTHING HOLDING HIM BACK.



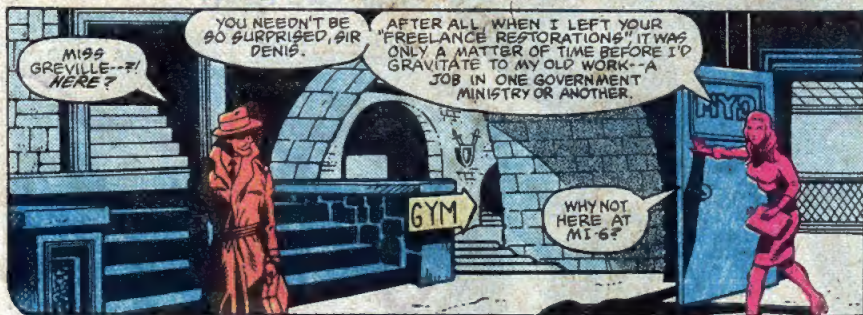
IT ACCORDS WITH HIS PROFILE--HE EXCELS IN EVERYTHING FROM PSYCHOLOGICAL APPTITUDE TO PAPERWORK, AND HE SEEMS TO BE AMBITIOUS...



I DOUBT YOU NEED TO WORRY, FAH LO SUEE--BUT I'D BEST PREPARE YOUR NEXT MEETING...



...THE OLD GENT'S DUE ANY MINUTE.



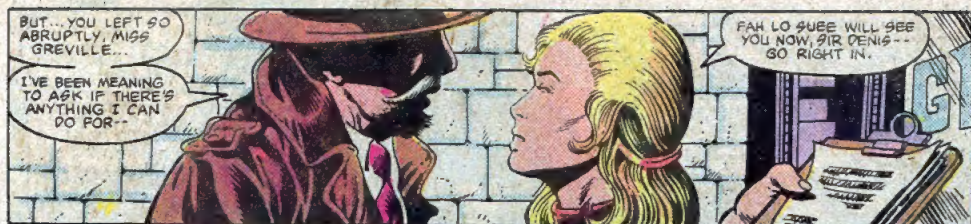
MISS GREVILLE--? HERE?

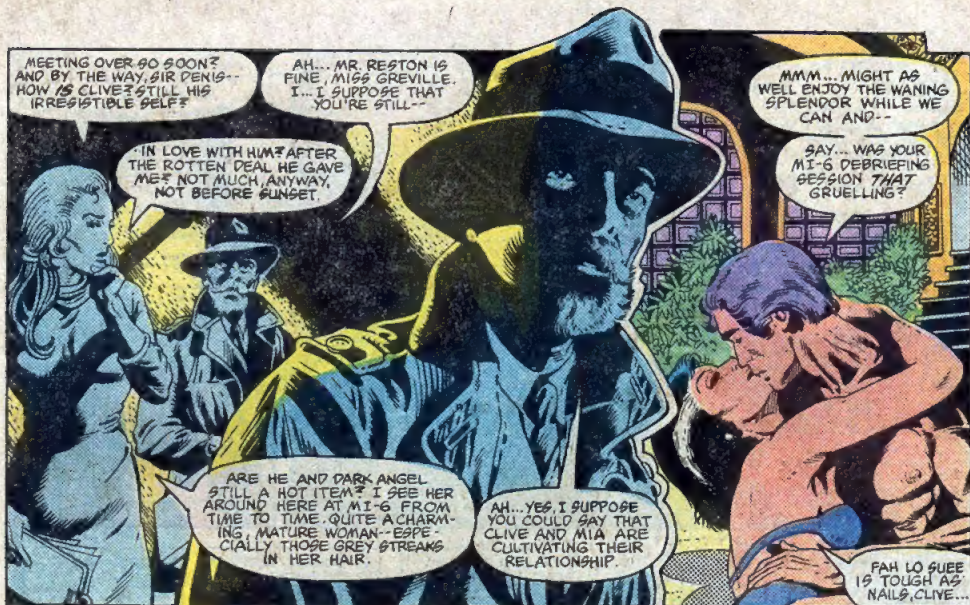
YOU NEEDN'T BE SO SURPRISED, SIR DENIS.

AFTER ALL, WHEN I LEFT YOUR "FREELANCE RESTORATIONS" IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I'D GRAVITATE TO MY OLD WORK--A JOB IN ONE GOVERNMENT MINISTRY OR ANOTHER.

WHY NOT HERE AT M.I. 6?







MEETING OVER SO SOON?
AND BY THE WAY, SIR DENIS--
HOW IS CLIVE? STILL HIS
IRRESISTIBLE SELF?

AH... MR. RESTON IS
FINE, MISS GREVILLE.
I... I SUPPOSE THAT
YOU'RE STILL--

IN LOVE WITH HIM? AFTER
THE ROTTEN DEAL HE GAVE
ME? NOT MUCH, ANYWAY,
NOT BEFORE SUNSET.

MMM... MIGHT AS
WELL ENJOY THE WAXING
SPLENDOR WHILE WE
CAN AND--

SAY... WAS YOUR
MI-6 DEBRIEFING
SESSION THAT
GRUELLING?

ARE HE AND DARK ANGEL
STILL A HOT ITEM? I SEE HER
AROUND HERE AT MI-6 FROM
TIME TO TIME. QUITE ACHARM-
ING, MATURE WOMAN--ESPE-
CIALLY THOSE GREY STREAKS
IN HER HAIR.

AH... YES I SUPPOSE
YOU COULD SAY THAT
CLIVE AND MIA ARE
CULTIVATING THEIR
RELATIONSHIP.

FAH LO SUEE
IS TOUGH AS
NAILS, CLIVE...

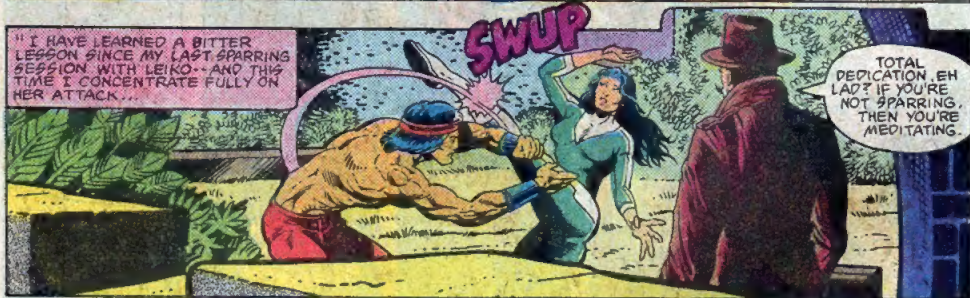


... BUT I'LL HOLD UP
AS LONG AS I HAVE
YOU TO RETURN TO...

I'LL MAKE YOU
A DEAL, ANGEL--YOU
AGREE TO LOVE ME
WHEN I'M POOR
AND I AGREE TO
LOVE YOU NOW.

GIVE ME MY
GLASS AND I'LL
TOAST THAT
DEAL.

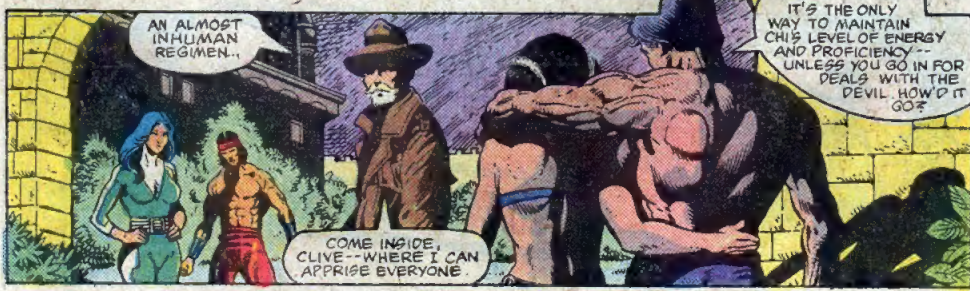
OOPS, NO TIME, ANGEL--
THE SOUND OF THAT
CAR MEANS SMITH'S
RETURNING-- LET'S
SEE HOW HIS MEETING
TURNED OUT.



"I HAVE LEARNED A BITTER
LESSON SINCE MY LAST SPARRING
SESSION WITH LEIKO-- AND THIS
TIME I CONCENTRATE FULLY ON
HER ATTACK..."

SWUP

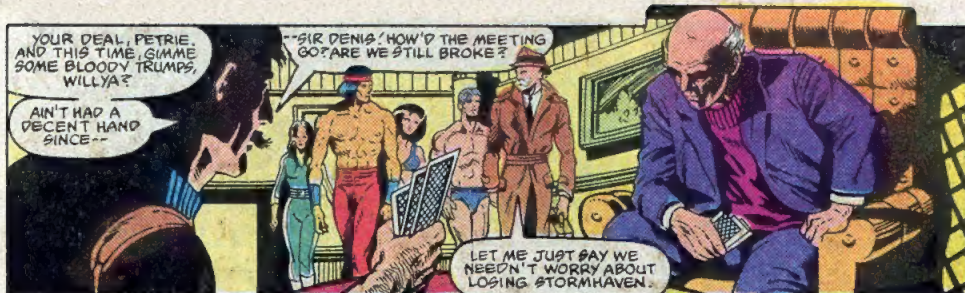
TOTAL
DEDICATION. EH
LAD? IF YOU'RE
NOT SPARRING,
THEN YOU'RE
MEDITATING.

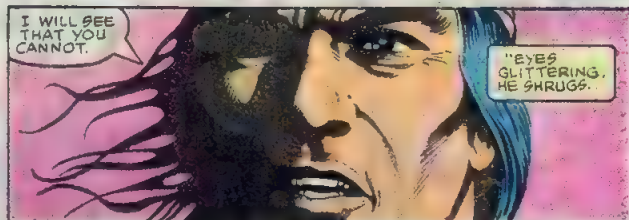


AN ALMOST
INHUMAN
REGIMEN...

IT'S THE ONLY
WAY TO MAINTAIN
THIS LEVEL OF ENERGY
AND PROFICIENCY--
UNLESS YOU GO IN FOR
DEALS WITH THE
DEVIL. HOW'D IT
GO?

COME INSIDE,
CLIVE--WHERE I CAN
APPRISE EVERYONE.





TWISTING, THRUSTING, OUR SHADOWS STAIN THE ANCIENT SCREENS...



"...UNTIL--"



BRATCH

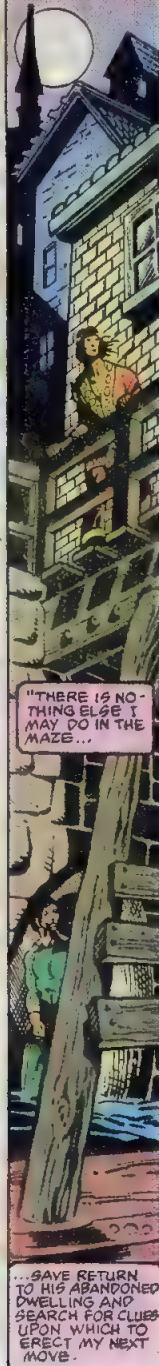
"HE IS GONE--VANISHING SWIFTLY AND SILENTLY INTO THE FILTHY MAZE OF DUCTS AND WARRENS WHICH IS LIMEHOUSE."



"I PURSUE, RACING OVER LEDGES, STEPS AND ROUGH ROOFTOPS..."



"BUT IN THE END IT IS THE SAME-- HE IS GONE."



"THERE IS NOTHING ELSE I MAY DO IN THE MAZE..."

"...SAVE RETURN TO HIS ABANDONED DWELLING AND SEARCH FOR CLUES UPON WHICH TO ERECT MY NEXT MOVE."

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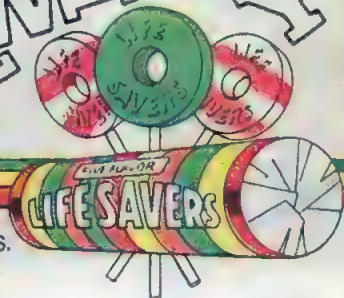
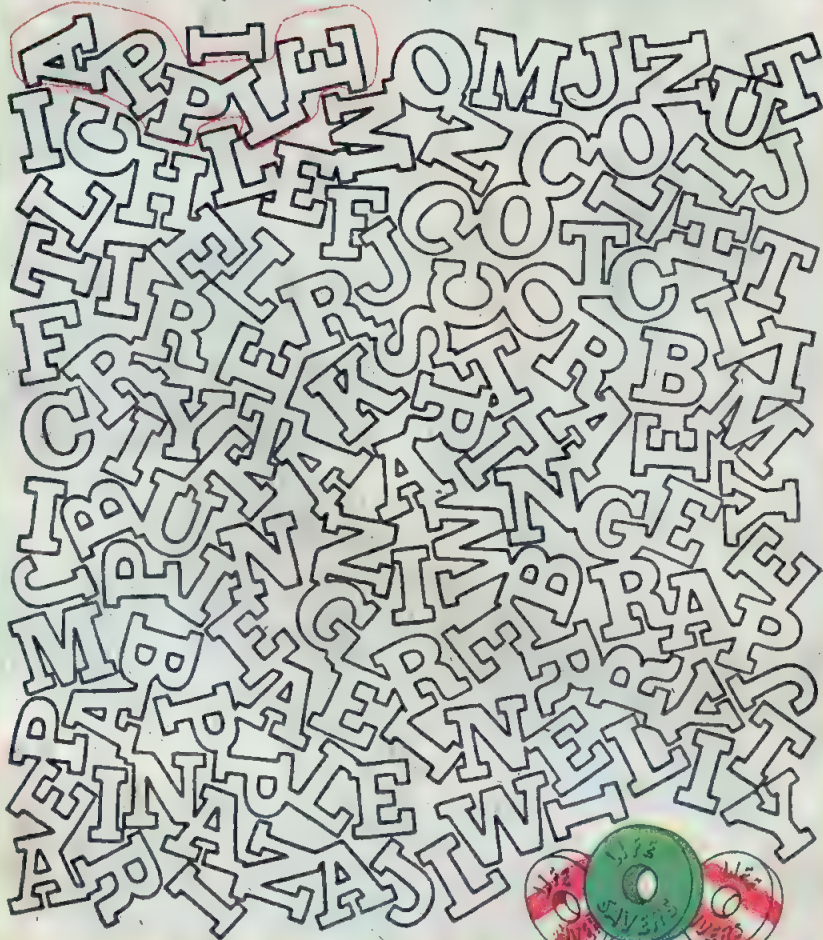
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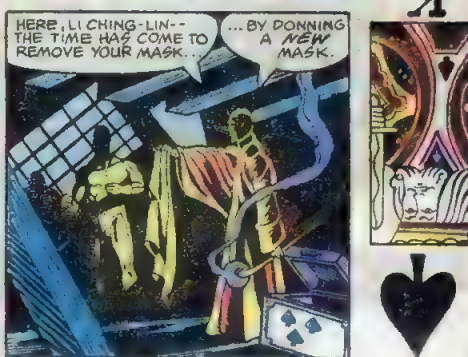
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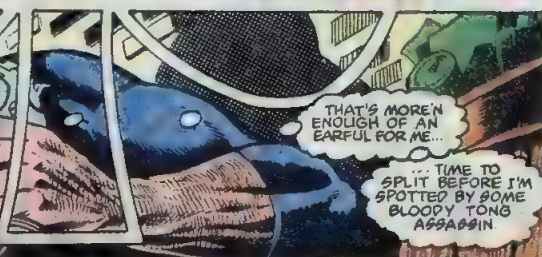
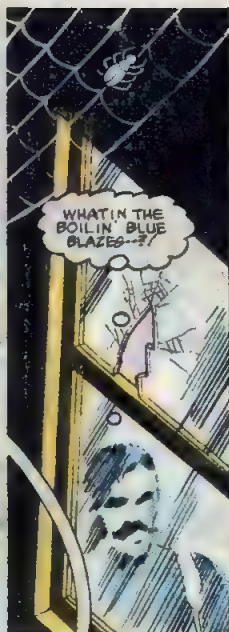
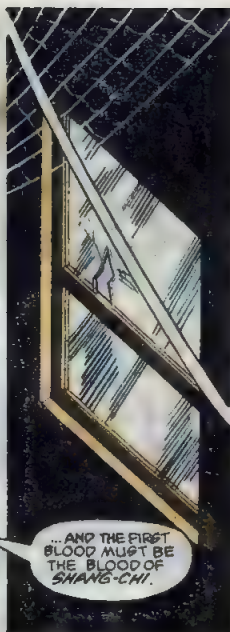
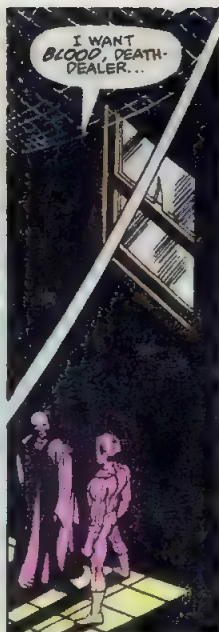
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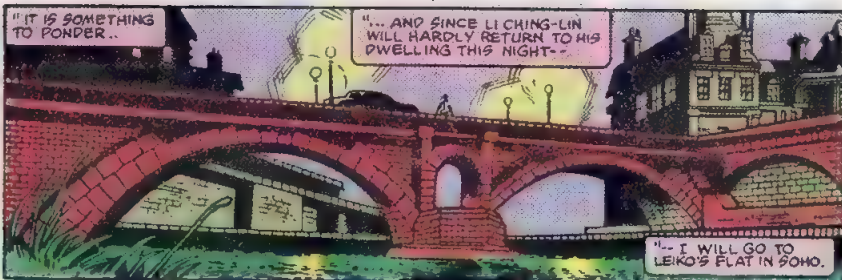
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"IT IS SOMETHING TO PONDER.."

"... AND SINCE LI CHING-LIN WILL HARDLY RETURN TO HIS DWELLING THIS NIGHT.."

"... I WILL GO TO LEIKO'S FLAT IN SOHO."



LEIKO-- YOU ARE HERE?

I DECIDED TO COME DOWN FROM SCOTLAND, SHANG, IN CASE YOU NEEDED ANY HELP.

AND THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE HERE TOO--



HULLO, CHI-- GUESS WHAT? THERE'S SOME THING ROTTEN IN THE STATE OF DENMARK, NOT TO MENTION STORMHAVEN, AND THE STENCH IS CALLED SMITH.

Y'SEE, MY OH-SO-TRUSTING LAD, DARK ANGEL TOLD ME ABOUT THIS LI GENT YOU'RE STROD TO ICE BACK WHEN SHE WAS STILL A SOVIET SPY, HER KGB PALS TRIED TO GET LI ONTO THEIR SIDE.



"RESTON--DRUNK"



MONEY, WOMEN, DRUGS, A KREMLIN POST-- THEY TRIED EVERY-THING, AND SO DID THE CHICOM, BUT HE WOULDN'T BITE. LI'S AS LOYAL TO THE QUEEN AS HER SUN-DAY KNICKERS.

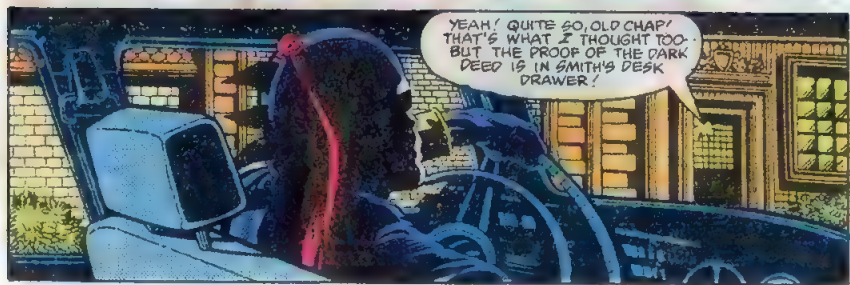


I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRERD YOU, CHI OL' PAL, EVEN THOUGH YOU STOLE DARLIN' LITTLE LEIKO HERE OUT FROM UNDER MY NOSE.



IT'S CLUZ YOU'RE SO HONEST... SO STRAIGHT... SO DISGUSTINGLY WUNNERFUL--

I DON'T BELIEVE IT, RESTON, SMITH WOULD NEVER--



YEAH! QUITE SO, OLD CHAP! THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT TOO-- BUT THE PROOF OF THE DARK DEED IS IN SMITH'S DESK DRAWER!



I CHECKED AROUND, Y'SEE, AND THERE THEY WERE-- FORGED MORTGAGE PAPERS! YOU GO OUT TO ICE AN INNOCENT MAN AND SUDDENLY SMITH IS NO LONGER BROKE!

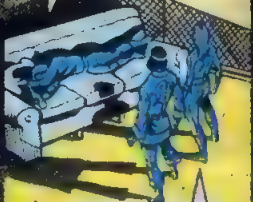
THERE'S BEEN A DEAL, CHI! YOU'RE THE CHUMP IN THE MIDDLE. SMITH IS ON ONE SIDE... AND GUESS WHO'S ON THE OTHER?



LEA' ME 'LONE... LEMME SLEEP...

WHO--?

HE SAYS NO ONE BUT FAH LO SUEE COULD ARRANGE SUCH CONVINCING MORTGAGE PAPERS ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE-- AND NO ONE ELSE COULD HAVE A MOTIVE FOR LI'S ELIMINATION.



HE THINKS IT'S YOUR SISTER, SHANG.



COULD SMITH DO SUCH A THING MERELY TO PRESERVE HIS WEALTH?

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D APPEAL TO MY TRUST TO INVOLVE ME AS WELL...

WRONG, CHINAMAN! SIR DENIS ASKED ME TO NOSE AROUND LONDON ON A DIFFERENT MATTER ENTIRELY, OR SO IT SEEMED-- AN OLD GEEK NAMED WANG YU-SENG...

YET LI IS INNOCENT-- NOT A DOUBLE.

TARR--!

AND I JUST SAW YOUR BOY LI MEETIN' WITH MY BOY WANG.

THEY'RE IN CAHOOTS, PLOTTIN' THE DOWNFALL OF MI-6 PRISTIN' PRESENT, INCLUDIN' PRESENT COMPANY LI AIN'T INNOCENT!



MAYBE NOT... BUT HOLIER-THAN-THOU SMITH DIDN'T KNOW THAT-- MAKING HIM JUST AS GUILTY AS LI.

SHUT UP, RESTON! SIR DENIS MUST'VE HAD OTHER REASONS!

YEAH-- THE FORGED MORTGAGE PAPERS..

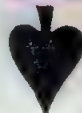
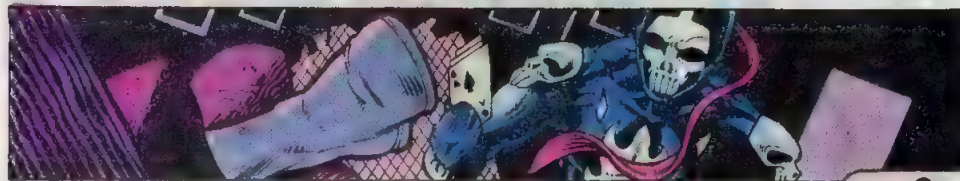
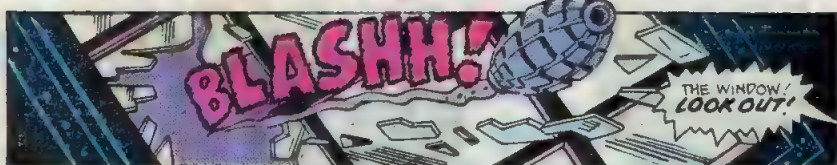


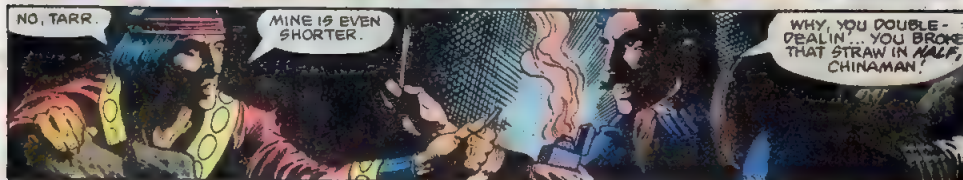
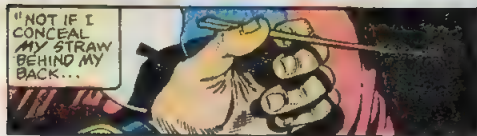
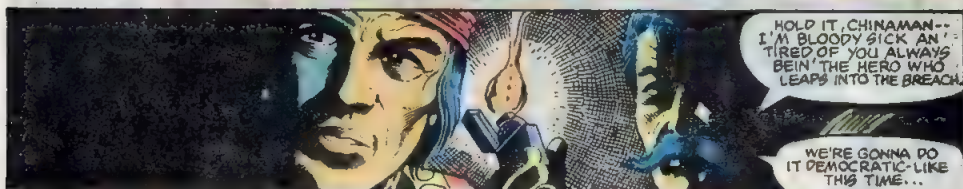
HE JUST LOVES THAT CASTLE.

AW, YOU'RE TOO DRUNK TO ARGUE WITH.

ANYWAYS, MY BOY WANG SEEMS TO ESPECIALLY CRAVE YOUR BLOOD, CHI, AND HE'S USIN' YOUR BOY LI-- WHO NOW CALLS HIMSELF 'DEATH DEALER'-- TO GET IT.







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"THE RUBBLE
SHIFTS UNDER
MY FEET, DESPITE
ALL EFFORTS AT
STEALTH..."



K

"HE IS...
DOING SOME-
THING...
ONTO THE
RUBBLE..."



"HIS
CALLING CARDS!"

"I HAVE NOT
YET LEARNED
TO DEFEY
GRAVITY."

"BUT DEATH-
DEALER HAS
LEARNED WELL
THE WARNING
OF FAILED
STEALTH"



"LIKE A SHA-
DOW HIMSELF,
HE MELTS INTO
SAME."



"AND NOW THAT MY
STEALTH IS USELESS...
WHERE IS HE?"

WHERE?



WHERE--?



"BEHIND ME!"



"AND SO HIS
STEALTH, TOO, HAS
FAILED."



"AND SO MY
SKIN IS
BROKEN."

"AND SO HE
TUMBLES
THROUGH THE
RUIN OF HIS OWN
MAKING, DISTURB-
ING SMOKE, LIGHT,
AND SHADOW..."

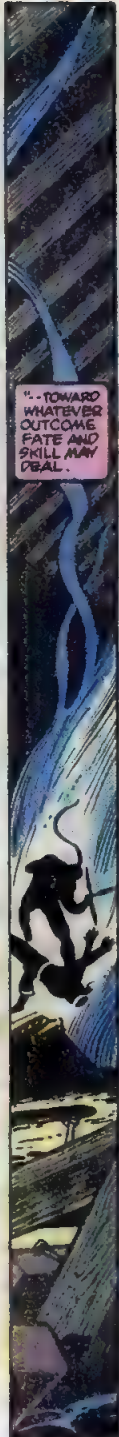
"... BUT NEVER--
NEVER HIS DEAD-
LY CONCENTRA-
TION."

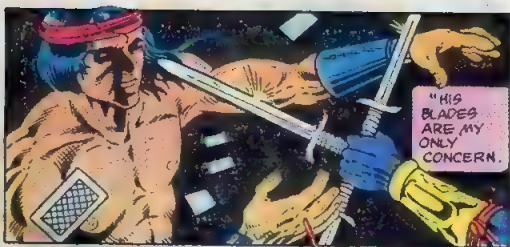


"AND SO
WE MUST
FIGHT--"



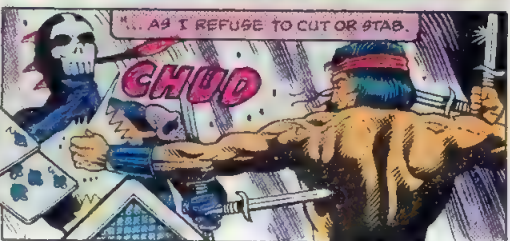
"--TOWARD
WHATEVER
OUTCOME
FATE AND
SKILL MAY
DEAL."

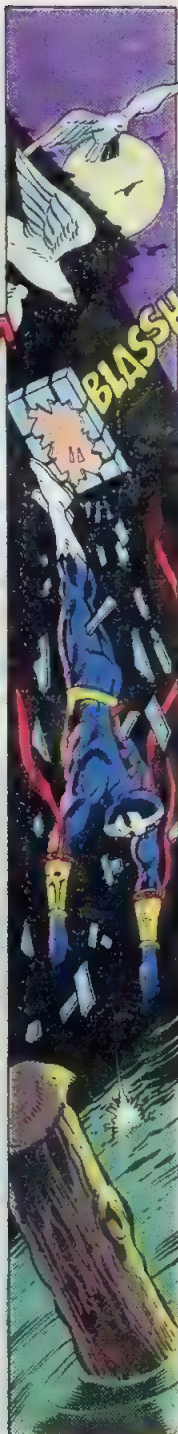
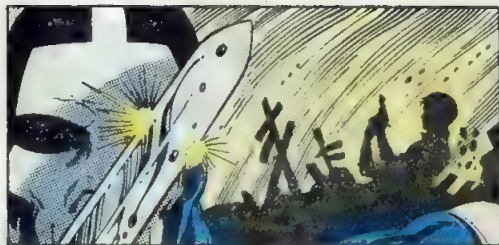




"I MUST STAY BACK WHEN THEY SLASH..."

"... MOVE IN WHEN THEY DO NOT."





OF ALL THE BLOODY FOOL STUNTS, YA HAD 'IM DAZED TO RIGHTS, CHINAMAN-- YA LET HIM GO, THE LEAST YA COULDA DONE WAS MOVE OUTTA OUR LINE OF FIRE--



"THE WEAPON FALLS WITHOUT SPINNING. FATE HAS WON THE GAME... BUT ONLY AFTER DEALING ME THE RETURN OF A GOOD HAND."



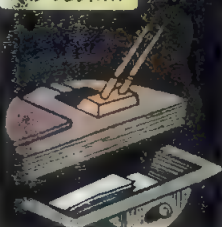
K



"STORMHAVEN..."



"SMITH'S LIBRARY..."



"HIS DESK..."



"IT WAS TOO MUCH TO HOPE THAT REBTON WAS DRUNK BEFORE HE SEARCHED THROUGH THIS VERY SAME DESK DRAWER... AND YET THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I DO HOPE."

"SINCE DISCOVERING THE HORROR AND SHAME OF MY TRUE FATHER-- THE MONSTROUS FIGURE WHO WAS FU MANCHU-- I HAVE OFTEN EMBRACED SMITH AS A SURROGATE FATHER..."

"... AS THE PATERNAL MENTOR I HAVE NEVER TRULY HAD... AS A MAN OLD IN YEARS AND WEATHERED BY THE HARSH REALITIES OF THE WORLD, YET STILL INFUSED WITH INDIVIDUAL HONOR, AND WORTHY OF RESPECT..."

"SHOULD HIS HEART PROVE, NOW, TO CARRY ON THE BLACK RHYTHM HALTED BY FU MANCHU'S DEATH..."

"... I KNOW I WOULD WEEP."





"BUT THESE PAPERS ARE NOT--"

SO YOU STOPPED WANG'S MAN LI-- I KNEW YOU WOULD, LAD...

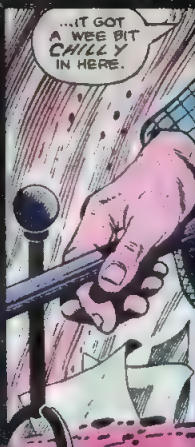


SMITH?

AYE--AND YOU WON'T FIND THE FORGED MORTGAGE DOCUMENTS OVER THERE, LAD.



YOU SEE, IT...



...IT GOT A WEE BIT CHILLY IN HERE.



I HAD TO PLAY ALONG WITH FAH LO SUEE, LAD...

... TO GET AS MUCH INFORMATION FROM HER ON LI AS POSSIBLE.

OF COURSE, *SHE* DIDN'T KNOW THAT LI WAS WORKING FOR WANG...AND FOR MY OWN REASONS, MY OWN SUSPICIONS. I COULDN'T TELL HER.



THEN...



... THEN... YOU...



WELCOME BACK, LAD--WELCOME BACK TO THE EMBRACE OF HOMELESS POVERTY...



... WONDERFUL POVERTY.

"I WEEP ANYWAY...BUT NEVER HAVE TEARS BEEN SO SWEET."



BUT YOU, SMITH-- HOW DID YOU LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT LI?



I CAN SAY NO MORE THAN THIS FOR NOW, LAD...

I LEARNED THE TRUTH FROM A MAN WE BOTH KNOW WELL... WHOM I SAW LAST WEEK.

BULLEN BULLETINS

INTRODUCING...

Ken and Ellie's darling boy, supreme high mudcracker, of the mighty Marvel Comics creative crew, Editor of all he surveys, me, As usual, I'm here to give you the news and backstage blather.

WEDDINGS, BASHES, AND STUFF...

Boy, am I ever behind on these things! Please, hereby, be thou informed of the marriage of toponotch X-Men inker Bob Wiack to beautiful Ann Karavitis, in November of 1980! Also, be thou informed of the marriage of ace colorist Bob Sharen to gorgeous Karen Jones in June of 1981. Also, be thou informed of the marriage of recently-promoted Editor Mark Gruenwald to stunning Berinda Glass last May. May I add that all of the above-named ladies are as intelligent and accomplished in their own fields (which are computer analysis, teaching, and singing, respectively) as they are beautiful. Congratulations, folks.

It also gives me great pleasure to announce the birth of Allen and Judy Milgrom's first child, Rachel Gail Milgrom this February fifth. Allen, as you know, is an artist as well as an outstanding Editor. The inside word is that he's got the kid kicking backboards for him already. Congratulations, Al and Judy!

Last, and least, Bob Layton has been cloned. Congratulations, Bob.

MARVEL MOVIES!

As of April 26th, the Mighty Marvel Comics Group's new headquarters are at 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10018! Please use our new address for all correspondence — subscriptions, complaints, reves, kickbacks, or just shooting the breeze.

You should see the new offices! In fact, so should I! As I write this, it's only mid-February, so we haven't moved yet (though we will be by the time you read this) so I really don't know what our new space is like. I've seen the floor plan though, and I think we're going to like it. I'll tell you all about the new digs after we get settled.



that, I happen to think the concept is terrific! It's about a super-special anti-terrorist unit of the U.S. Army code-named "G.I. Joe," which uses the latest in computerized, laser-guided, high-tech weaponry and equipment. Imagine a gun which automatically aims wherever you look and destroys any target your eyes are focused on when you say "bang" into your helmet-mike. It's real — and you'll see it and other sophisticated gear in action in G.I. Joe. I promised you no hard sell in this column; so I'll refrain from giving you the "rush right out and buy lots" line. It's probably too late anyway. I can't help being excited about G.I. Joe and Marvel's first TV advertising for it, however. The ad was prepared by Marvel Productions, our own television production studio and run with the help and cooperation of the super terrific people at Hasbro Toys. It seems to us that this could be the single biggest event in comics history, marking the beginning of a new era of wider exposure for Marvel Comics and the Marvel Universe. I wanted you to know about it.



ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

... would you believe that I've been named as one of the six New Yorkers of the Year for 1981 by the JayCees of New York? The honor was bestowed upon me for my contributions toward revitalizing the comics industry and helping Marvel Comics achieve a new pinnacle of success. Wow, I'm deeply honored... and I'm going to ask for a raise, because of this, of course! The others honored included Dave Winfield of the New York Yankees and Gary Jeter of the New York Giants. Not bad company, eh?

IN CLOSING...

... I'd just like to say that I was only kidding about Bob Layton being cloned. Actually, Baby-faced Bob, who is an extremely talented artist and writer, and a true gentleman whom I am privileged to call a friend, was not cloned. He was Xeroxed.

Best,

Jim Shooter
Jim Shooter

THE HYPE BOX

Get a load of...

KA-ZAR #17 — BRUCE JONES and guest-pen-ciller KUN FRENZ have come up with the guaranteed most off-beat tale of the year as Ka-Zar, Shenna, Zabu, and private-eye Scott Brannigan (who?) engage in a multi-level adventure that fandom's best is talking about for months to come!

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #86 — You demanded it (and how!) — you got it (and how!): the return of *Cloak and Dagger*!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #120 — Spider-Man teams up with the swashbuckling hero of the 1830's, *Dominio Fortune*! Only Dom is now in his seventies! What's he been up to? Read it and find out!

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JOKER



JOKER

HARD TO BELIEVE I'VE LOST MY FLAT TO THE BOMB SQUAD-- AND JUST BEFORE SMITH IS DESTINED TO LOSE THIS CASTLE...

HOMELESS WAIFS ARE WE-- AT LEAST ONE BOTTLE EMERGED FROM THE BLAST UNSCATHED. NOW THAT SMITH IS SO HONORABLY POOR, WOULDN'T DO TO RAID HIS LIQUOR CABINET?

I'M GLAD YA RESCUED THE REST OF THIS DECK FROM THAT DEATH-DEALER CREEP, CHINAMAN-- SOMETHIN' SATISFYIN' ABOUT PLAYIN' WITH HIS CARDS.

SHOULD'VE KNOWN TO TRUST SMITH... STEAD OF GETTIN' BLIND DRUNK FOR NOTHIN'...

AH WELL, THE HANGOVER'LL SERVE ME WELL...

SPEAKIN' OF WHICH...

...TIME FOR A LITTLE HAIR OF THE DOG THAT BIT M--

OOPS.

CLUMSY BOT! NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE-- WHAT THE--? THE BLOODY CARD'S GOT A FALSE FACE!

PEEL IT BACK CHINAMAN THERE! SOMETHIN' ELSE UNDER THERE!

WHAT THE DEVIL IS IT? ALL'S I SEE IS--

MY FATHER.

THESE CARDS WERE DEALT BY FUJI MANCHU...

...AND SMITH SAW HIM... LAST WEEK.

JOKER



END

JOKER

Dear Doug and Gene,

At first I had mixed emotions about #109, but if there's one thing I've learned about this book over the years, it's to give Moench a chance. So, while I do not approve of the direction Clive Reston's personal life is taking... well, Clive and I have certainly failed to see eye to eye occasionally in the past. No big thing. And once I see where all of this is heading, maybe I'll end up loving it.

Right now, I do most certainly approve of the heightened intrigue of MI-6 and Russian agents like the Dark Angel. To me, the best issues of MOKF could easily be made into James Bond movies, what with all the exotic locales, colorful villains, and non-stop action. And yet, MOKF has something more. What other hero would climb a tree to examine a baby bird? The fact that Shang-Chi is not just another "superhero" can be attributed to quiet moments like this, to the avoidance of violence when it is not necessary, and to the swift and unhesitating use of force to protect another.

College has forced me to cut my monthly reading from some forty titles to a mere five. I will not miss the other titles if MASTER OF KUNG FU maintains this extraordinary level of quality. Doug's prose has not become overly familiar to me the way other writers' styles have; it remains fresh, his characters crisply and precisely defined. Gene's art is now superb, moody and graceful. Keep up the good work -- and special thanks to Gene for his kind words of support to me. It's nice to be noticed.

Greg Garrett
635 Wellston Circle
Norman, OK 73039

Dear Editor,

I'm afraid #111 reminded me very much of an old *Doctor Who* episode consisting almost entirely of one long chase by land, sea, and air. I say "afraid," because the episode was rather ludicrous. This MOKF chase was much better handled and had a few extra elements involved, but by the time Shang-Chi and Ghost Maker reached the bicycle stage, I was really beginning to wonder. (And I was also reminded of the Monty Python "Pantomime Horse as Secret Agent Film" sketch in which two men costumed as a horse chase each other by rowboat, car, tandem bicycle, rickshaw, etc. etc. etc.)

Actually, a more interesting aspect of this issue was the use of "super" acid rain as a menace. I notice that Canadian Gene Day is credited as co-plotter for this issue and I wonder if he had a part in selecting acid rain, since the real-life acid rain problem is a big issue up here while it seems to be of little concern down in the States. About 90% of Canada's acid rain is caused by U.S. pollution, but the Reagan administration seems intent on actually relaxing environmental controls and moving massively toward coal-generated electricity, all of which should really bring on the deluge. It's another case of fiction being less strange than reality. The long-term propagation of "mild" acid rain caused by men of apparently good will could be ultimately far more devastating than the death of any single person, no matter how important or how royal.

T. M. Maple
Toronto, Ont.

Doug and Gene:

I've decided to write my first letter to MOKF. Why? Well, I've been reading the series regularly since #100 and after finishing #111, I just couldn't keep my tidal wave of comments restrained any longer...

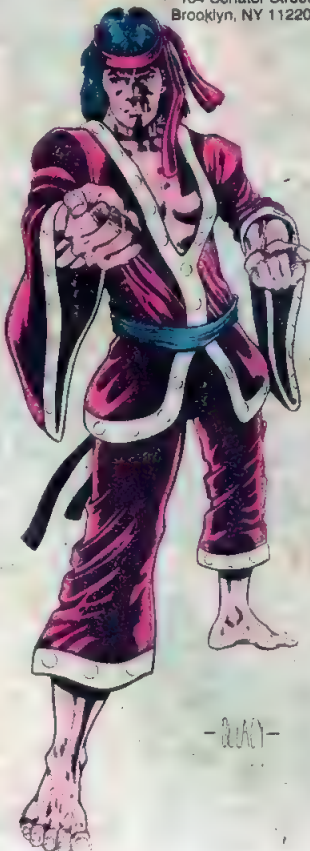
First and foremost, I've got to praise and extol Gene Day for his fine work on the art. Not only does he depict Shang-Chi and company beautifully, but he also comes up with the most creative panel designs I've ever seen. The layout of pages 26 and 27 is sheer genius!

Doug Moench was already on my list of the top three writers even before I started reading MOKF, and his stories here have only reinforced my prior perceptions. Shang-Chi's philosophical musings are very thought-provoking. Keep it up, Doug.

Focusing specifically on #111, the concept of "acid rain" as a secret weapon is terrifying. If used in a war, it could wipe out a city in seconds. I don't know whether or not it's feasible, but I certainly hope not.

Rather than a "same old martial arts" type comic, MOKF presents a bold, philosophical examination of life. Well done.

Dave Schmidt
134 Senator Street
Brooklyn, NY 11220



Thanks, Dave -- and it seems you're hardly alone in your appreciation of Gene Day. Indeed, this next note set us back a bit, scribbled as it was on a sheet of familiar Marvel stationery...

To MOKF:

I've seen a lot of artwork in my day, but Gene Day can really push the pencil. Keep it up, Gene! KUNG FU!!

A fan from Marvel

And Gene thanks thee fellow Bullpenner... whosoever thou art!

Dear Doug,

During the second (final?) killing of Fu Manchu starting with #71, each issue of MOKF left me breathless, but after that it seemed to fade a bit. The "Smoke, Beads, and Blood" sequel was great, but then Zeck left and so did the spark. But now, after only a few issues, it's back. #110 is FANTASTIC! Day's art is rapidly improving and the reign/rain/knight/tower/chess... allusions were brilliant. I don't know how much of it was planned, but on my third reading I'm still catching more. Beautiful! Keep it up! Upward and onward...

Dan Schwarz
28 Colvin Circle
Troy, NY 12180

Dan, buddy, believe us -- it was all planned, and it nearly drove us crazy.

Dear Ralph,

You let Doug and Gene blow it. They finally had the perfect villain for Shang-Chi and you let them kill him off. In fact, Ghost Maker was so good that he caused an argument between me and a friend. I claimed that Ghost Maker actually won the fight, because he succeeded in activating his acid rain and was foiled only by the bad luck of a shifting wind. My friend disagreed, claiming that Shang-Chi actually won because he overcame his own weaknesses and carried on when he should have realistically collapsed on the road and passed out.

And whatever happened to Rufus Carter? Was he simply a casualty of the Zeck/Day change-over?

R. Cad
1500 Quail Circle
Roseville, CA 95878

(That makes three Circle addresses on one letters page; what's going on??) Fans of the Ghost Maker, stay tuned -- you ain't seen nothin' yet! In the meantime, howzabout this Death-Dealer guy? He ain't nothin' to sneeze at either. And Rufus "Super Midnight" Carter is slated for a return appearance along about #119 or so. We aims to please, folks.

END-NOTE: Yes, you've heard it before and no doubt you'll hear it again, but that ain't gonna stop us from saying it right here and now: Next issue's gonna be a masterpiece. No lie. It's the first part of a stunning three-parter and it's loaded for bear, big bear. It also features one of the most startling developments in the entire history of this series. And on top of all that, Gene Day is really smokin' now! Be here. (Oh yeah -- it's called "Blood of His Blood," hint, hint...)

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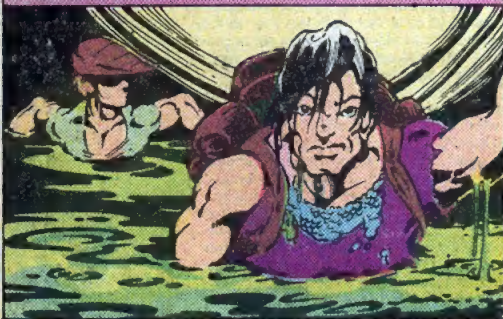
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